IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device comprising:

a fax gateway including,

a storage device for storing an e-mail message received from ~~a~~ an e-mail sender for transmission to a fax recipient through a packet switching network, the stored e-mail message to be ~~being~~ converted to a fax document for transmission thereof to the fax recipient having access to a fax device;

at least one fax modem device for transmitting the fax document to the fax recipient through a public switching network,

wherein ~~reception of the email message in the form of a fax document is not necessarily known to the e-mail sender~~ a fax number designating the fax recipient is not contained in the e-mail message ~~and the ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device allows a fax recipient to receive e-mail messages by the use of a fax device without requiring computer equipment~~.

2. (Currently amended) An AWA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in
claim 1 wherein the storage device further ~~for storing~~ can store a fax telephone number associated with the fax device of the fax recipient, ~~and for using~~ the fax telephone number ~~for establishing~~ to be used to establish a call for the transmission of the fax document.

3. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the storage device ~~for~~ can ~~further storing~~ store a time-of-day for specifying a range of time during which the fax document is transmitted.

4. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in
claim 1 further including a server device ~~for storing~~ to store a fax telephone number associated with the fax device of the fax recipient, ~~and for using~~ the fax telephone number for establishing a call for the transmission of the fax document, said server device ~~for further storing~~ to store a time-of-day for specifying a range of time during which the fax document is transmitted.

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5. (Original) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the storage device ~~for further creating~~ to be used to create a fax cover page for transmission thereof to the fax recipient.

6. (Original) An AWA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 5 wherein the e-mail message includes an e-mail address and the fax cover page includes a sender field extracted from the e-mail address.

7. (Previously Presented) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 6 wherein the ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device assigns an e-mail address to the fax recipient, the e-mail address being identified by a fax telephone number identifying the fax device and wherein the fax cover page for further including a destination field extracted from the fax recipient e-mail address.

8. (Original) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 7 wherein the e-mail message includes a subject field and the ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device for including the e-mail subject field contents in the fax cover page prior to transmission thereof to the fax recipient.

9. (Original) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the storage device for further assigning a home directory for storage of e-mail messages directed to the fax recipient and upon receipt of the e-mail message, for storing the email message within the assigned home directory of the fax recipient.

10. (Original) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the fax gateway is coupled to the public switching telephone network

11. (Previously Presented) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the fax gateway is coupled to the public switching telephone network through a digital communications link.

12. (Original) An AWA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the fax gateway is coupled to the packet switching network through a digital communications link.

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13. (Currently amended): An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the storage device is a computer system having a conversion program ~~for causing conversion of~~ to convert the e-mail message to a fax document.

14. (Original) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 13 wherein the storage device is a computer system having an e-mail program for causing storage of the e-mail message.

15. (Original) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 14 wherein the e-mail program and the conversion program reside externally to the fax gateway.

16. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the fax gateway ~~further for receiving~~ can receive a reply fax document from the fax recipient, ~~for converting~~ and can convert the reply fax document to a reply e-mail message and ~~for transmitting~~ transmit the reply e-mail message to the sender.

17. (Currently amended) A method for sending and receiving e-mail messages using a fax device comprising:

receiving an e-mail message through a data communications network from an e-mail sender;

converting the e-mail message into a fax document; and

transmitting the fax document to a fax recipient without extracting a fax number from the e-mail message thereby enabling the fax recipient to receive e-mail messages without access to the data networking network ~~and transmission of the e-mail message in the form of a fax document not necessarily known to the e-mail sender~~.

18. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 17 further including ~~the step of~~ receiving a reply from the fax recipient in the form of a reply fax document, converting the reply fax document to a reply e-mail message and transmitting the reply e-mail message through the data communications network.

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19. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 17 further including ~~the step of~~ verifying a destination user address for identifying the fax recipient as being a known user.

20. (Original) A method as recited in claim 19 wherein upon unsuccessful verification of the destination user address sending a failed message.

21. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having stored therein computer readable program code comprising instructions for performing the following steps:

receiving an e-mail message, from through a data communications network;

converting the e-mail message into a fax document; and

transmitting the fax document to a fax recipient <u>without extracting a fax number from the e-mail message</u> thereby enabling the fax recipient to receive e-mail messages without access to the data networking network ~~and transmission of the e-mail message in the form of a fax document not necessarily known to the e-mail sender~~.

22. (New) A device comprising:

means for receiving an e-mail message, from through a data communications network;

means for converting the e-mail message into a fax document; and

means for transmitting the fax document to a fax recipient without extracting a fax number from the e-mail message thereby enabling the fax recipient to receive e-mail messages without access to the data networking network.

23. (New) The device of claim 22 further comprising means for receiving a reply from the fax recipient in the form of a reply fax document, converting the reply fax document to a reply e-mail message and transmitting the reply e-mail message through the data communications network.

24. (New) The device of claim 22 further comprising means for verifying a destination user address for identifying the fax recipient as being a known user.